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1: Neuroreport 1998 Jul 13;9(10):2365-9

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GDNF administration induces recovery of the nigrostriatal dopaminergic system both in young and aged parkinsonian mice**Date I, Aoi M, Tomita S, Collins F, Ohmoto T.**

Department of Neurological Surgery, Okayama University Medical School,

Glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF) is a member of the transforming growth factor beta superfamily and acts as a neurotrophic factor for the nigrostriatal dopaminergic system. GDNF was injected stereotactically into the striatum of young (6 months old) and aged (12 months old) C57BL/6 mice that were treated with 4-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine (MPTP) 1 week earlier. Immunocytochemical and neurochemical analyses showed significant recovery of the nigrostriatal dopaminergic system both in young and in aged mice. Since Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder mainly affecting elderly people, this result demonstrates the potential usefulness of GDNF in treating Parkinson's disease.

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